



The THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Forgotten Biographies of Two Dunbars

Walter Harding

Buried in the pages of Charles Bell's *The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire* (Boston, 1894) are brief biographies of two of Thoreau's Dunbar relations that seem to have eluded the eyes of Thoreau scholars. The first of them is Asa Dunbar, Thoreau's maternal grandfather:

ASA DUNBAR.

Born, Bridgewater, Massachusetts, 1745; Harvard College, 1767; practiced, Keene; died there, June 22, 1787.

Mr. Dunbar studied for the pulpit, preached awhile at Bedford, near Concord, Massachusetts, beginning in 1769; and was settled as a colleague with the Rev. Thomas Barnard over the first church in Salem, Massachusetts, July 22, 1772. He gave great satisfaction to his parish, and was regarded as a preacher of superior excellence, but after a few years his health declined, and he was dismissed at his own request, April 29, 1779.

He afterwards determined to change his profession, and prepared himself in the office of Joshua Atherton of Amherst for the practice of the law. About the close of the Revolutionary war he removed to Keene, and was admitted to practice probably early in 1783. He soon rose to prominence. He acquired a good share of business and much popularity. The same powers which had given him his standing as a preacher enabled him to excel as an advocate. The only lawyers of Cheshire County when he was admitted were Simeon Olcott and Benjamin West of Charlestown, and Daniel Newcomb of Keene. These were all men of learning and ability, but Mr. Dunbar was probably fully their equal in everything but professional experience.

He was much devoted to the institution of Freemasonry, and delivered an address before Trinity Lodge of Masons at Worcester, Massachusetts, June 25, 1781. He held the office of master of the lodge at Keene up to the time of his decease, and was buried with Masonic honors. The contemporaneous newspaper account of his death states that "he was esteemed by his acquaintance[s] as an instructive, easy, and agreeable companion; he was honorable in his practice, attentive to his business, candid in his professions, and zealous in the cause of virtue and religion."

His wife, Mary, a sister of Daniel Jones of Hinsdale, survived her husband several years. He left also five children.

The second is of Asa's nephew Elijah Dunbar, whose chief claim to fame, apparently, was fishing. We wonder if he ever tried out Walden Pond!

ELIJAH DUNBAR.

Son of Samuel and Mary (Snow) Dunbar; born, Bridgewater, Massachusetts, April 23, 1759; Dartmouth College, 1783; practiced, Keene and Claremont; died, Keene, May 18, 1847.

Mr. Dunbar was a student of the law in the office of his uncle Asa Dunbar of Keene. There he entered into practice, and permanently resided, with the exception of seven years, from 1797 to 1804, when he was at Claremont.

He was chosen representative in the legislature from Keene in 1806, 1808, and 1810. Joel Parker became for a while a partner in his office, and was the active manager of the business. Mr. Dunbar did not attend the courts much after that time, but was employed somewhat in justice matters. General James Wilson, Jr., who remembered him as he was at this period, said: "He was not much of a practicing lawyer, within my recollection. He was fond of amusement. He used to go trout fishing a good deal, and I used to go with him."

His wife was Mary, daughter of Alexander Ralston of Keene. They had six children, two of whom survived their father.

The 1992 Thoreau Society Annual Meeting

The Thoreau Society held its annual meeting at the First Parish Church in Concord, Massachusetts, on Saturday, 11 July 1992. The Society's Board of Directors met the preceding afternoon in the First Parish vestry for its annual meeting, and board members gathered there afterward for their annual dinner. Friday evening a special forum, chaired by our incoming president, Joel Myerson, convened in the First Parish vestry to discuss the proposed new Thoreau Center on Fairhaven Road and the overall future of the Society.

On Saturday morning, after Edmund A. Schofield, president, called the meeting to order, Bradley P. Dean, secretary, moved that the assembled members waive the reading of the minutes of last year's annual meeting and accept the report of the 1991 annual meeting as printed in the summer 1991 bulletin. The members voted to accept the report as printed.

Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer, reported that although he did not yet have the usual figures on the financial condition of the Society, he expected

to have them soon. (We expect to report them in the fall 1992 bulletin.) He announced, however, that the Society was on firmer ground financially than it had been for some time, largely as a result of our members' generous response to the most recent semi-annual appeal.

Mary Sherwood, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers: Joel Myerson for president, Eric Parkman Smith for treasurer, Bradley P. Dean for secretary—all for terms of one year; Jeffrey H. White, Teruhiro Murata, Ronald W. Hoag for members of the Board of Directors—all for terms of three years; and Robert Sattelmeyer, Elizabeth Witherell for members of the Board of Directors—both for terms of one year. The slate was unanimously elected.

Stephen Packard of the Illinois Nature Conservancy delivered the keynote address on the subject of ecological restoration.

Schofield announced that Peggy Brace was to be congratulated for the lovely flower displays in the meeting room, and he reported that last year's proceedings will be published by Fulcrum Press soon, probably in September. Witherell reported on the progress of the Princeton Edition of Thoreau's *Writings*, and Anne McGrath briefly reported on the activities of our Lyceum. Myerson summarized the topics discussed during the Friday night forum and, after announcing Kenneth Walter Cameron's gift of forty-two cartons of periodicals (*Emerson Society Quarterlies* and *American Transcendental Quarterlies*) offered the following resolution, which the assembled members heartily and unanimously endorsed: "Whereas Kenneth Walter Cameron has kindly donated copies of *ESQ* and *ATQ* to the Thoreau Society, be it resolved that the Thoreau Society expresses its deep appreciation to Professor Cameron for his generosity and support."

Walter Harding, our founding secretary, offered condolences on behalf of the Society for the passing of Jennie Oremland, who had been an active life member of the Society, and he announced that a memorial service for Ms. Oremland would be held the following afternoon (Sunday) at the First Parish. Austin Meredith spoke briefly about his hypertext project, "Electric *Walden*." Dean briefly described the various committees of the Society and asked members interested in serving on one or more of the committees to place their names and addresses on sign-up sheets. He also announced some of the preliminary plans for next year's annual meeting. Wesley Mott, chair of the Executive Committee and secretary of the Emerson Society, announced that the Emerson Society would meet the next day at 3 p.m.

Schofield delivered the presidential address, after which the business meeting was adjourned.

After the luncheon in the vestry, Thomas Blanding conducted the annual Thoreau Quiz. Later that afternoon the Lyceum hosted an open house and featured exhibits of nature photographs and etchings of Thoreau country. Also, Marcia Moss, Society archivist, displayed the Thoreau treasures in the Concord Free Public Library. After the buffet supper that evening, Michael J. Kellett of the Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance spoke on "From Maine to Minnesota in Thoreau's Northern Forest."

Officers, Board, and Committees for 1992-93

Our president will soon select chairs for as yet unconstituted committees. Chairs of constituted committees are now working with our president to select members to sit on their committees. Any Society members interested in serving on one or more of the committees should contact the president or the relevant committee chair(s).

Officers

Joel Myerson, President
Department of English
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

Wesley Mott, Chair of Executive Committee
Department of Humanities
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
100 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609

Eric Parkman Smith, Treasurer
5 Academy Lane
Concord, MA 01742-2431

Bradley P. Dean, Secretary
Route 2, Box 36
Ayden, NC 28513

Walter R. Harding, Founding Secretary
19 Oak Street
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Board (Elected)

Robert C. Baron (term: 1991-94)
President, Fulcrum Publishing
350 Indiana Street, Suite 350
Golden, CO 80401

Ronald Wesley Hoag (term: 1992-95)
208 Drake Mallard Drive
Grimesland, NC 27837

Jane Langton (term: 1990-93)
9 Baker Farm Road
Lincoln, MA 01773

Wesley Mott (term: 1990-93)
(address above)

Teruhiro Murata (term: 1992-95)
President, Bunsai Gakuin
Boston Institute of Inter-Cultural Communication
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Lincoln, MA 01773-9967

Robert Sattelmeyer (term: 1992-93)
Department of English
Georgia State University
University Plaza
Atlanta, GA 30303

Lloyd Simon (term: 1991-94)
2 Ridge Road, Apt. 4
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Jeffrey H. White (term: 1992-95)
24 Balfour Street
Lexington, MA 02173

Elizabeth H. Witherell (term: 1992-93)
Writings of Henry D. Thoreau
Library
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Board (Past Presidents)

Thomas Blanding (pres. 1988-90)
100 Barrett's Mill Road
Concord, MA 01742

Albert Bussewitz (pres. 1970-71)
25 Bourne Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Wendell Glick (pres. 1978-79)
5453 Dunaisky
Duluth, MN 55811

Walter Harding (pres. 1963-64)
(address above)

John McAleer (pres. 1981-82)
121 Follen Road
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Frederick McGill (pres. 1972-73)
8211 Brent Street, #832
Port Richey, FL 34668

Anne McGrath (pres. 1980-81)
Thoreau Society, Inc.
156 Belknap Street
Concord, MA 01742

Michael Meyer (pres. 1986-88)
394 Brown's Road
Storrs, CT 06268

Joel Myerson (pres. 1992-)
(address above)

Paul Oehser (pres. 1959-60)
The Atrium
9960 Regency Sq. Blvd. North, Apt. 402
Jacksonville, FL 32225

W. Stephen Thomas (pres. 1976-77)
988 Park Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610

H. H. Uhlig (pres. 1973-74)
P. O. Box 334
Hancock, NH 03449

Frederick Wagner (pres. 1984-86)
English Department
Hamilton College
Clinton, NY 13323

Eugene Walker (pres. 1975-76)
Chestnut Street
Concord, MA 01742

Paul Williams (pres. 1977-78)
2718 Monserat Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002

Ann Zwinger (pres. 1982-84)
1825 Culebra Place
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Standing Committees

Archives: Thomas Blanding, Chair
(address above)
Sandra Lower
Marcia Moss, Archivist

Executive: Wesley Mott, Chair
(address above)
Ronald Wesley Hoag
Robert Sattelmeyer
Elizabeth H. Witherell
Ann Zwinger

Nominating: Barbara Wojtusik, Chair
57 Burton Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Program: Malcolm M. Ferguson, Chair
1489 Main Street
Concord, MA 01742

Publications: Malcolm M. Ferguson, Chair
(address above)

Special Committees

By-Laws Review:
(Sub-Committee of Executive Committee)
Robert Galvin, Chair
One Boston Place
Suite 3900
Boston, MA 02108

Capital Development:
(Sub-Committee of Finance Committee)
(Currently unconstituted)

Finance: Chair not yet selected
Eric Parkman Smith, Treasurer

Lyceum: Chair not yet selected
Anne McGrath, Curator

Membership Development:
(Currently unconstituted)

Public Relations:
(Sub-Committee of Executive Committee)
(Currently unconstituted)

Save Walden: (Currently unconstituted)

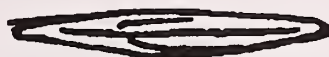
Thoreau Center:
Ronald W. Hoag, Chair
(address above)
Bradley P. Dean
Joel Myerson

Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

Walter Harding

- Bender, Bert. "Joshua Slocum and the Reality of Solitude." *ATQ*, 6 (Mar. 1992): 59-71. Compares *Sailing Alone Around the World* to *Walden*.
- Bickman, Martin. *Walden: Volatile Truths*. New York: Twayne, 1992. 139pp. Although this book is written primarily for undergraduates, don't dismiss it as just another "trot" of the "Cliff's Notes" ilk. It is the best introduction to *Walden* that I have seen in a long, long while. It takes *Walden* seriously and shows cogently how it can change lives. It is learned without being pedantic, as so many recent books on Thoreau have been. There is a good discussion of the literary and the historical context of the book. There is a thoughtful study of the structure of the book and of Thoreau's unique use of language. The book is filled with statements that I would like to challenge my students with. I recommend this book strongly for undergraduates. The good students will most certainly be challenged by it.
- Bisgaard, Daniel J. "Henry David Thoreau: A Re-Evaluation of Cross-Cultural Literary Influence." *Thoreau Society of Japan Bulletin [TSJB]* 18 (Dec. 1991): 38-47.
- Borst, Raymond R. *The Thoreau Log: A Documentary Life of Henry David Thoreau, 1817-1862*. New York: G. K. Hall, 1992. 654pp. The long-felt need for a documentary chronology of Thoreau's life has now at last been filled. More than six hundred pages of excerpts from letters, diaries, journals, court records, reading lists, memoirs, publishing records, and so on telling us what Thoreau was doing on the vast majority of the days of his life. Although it is primarily a reference book, it nonetheless makes fascinating reading for the Thoreau enthusiast. There is a very comprehensive index, making the volume easy to use, and sources are always clearly indicated, making a wealth of information more easily available. Thoreauvians are going to be deeply indebted to Borst for years to come for his labors. Borst, incidentally, has served a number of terms on our Society's Board of Directors.
- Boudreau, Gordon. "Transcendental Sport: Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping in *Walden*." *Thought*, 67 (Mar. 1992): 74-87.
- Brooks, Marshall. "Riding Henry Thoreau's Railroad." *New York Times*, 14 July 1991. The train past *Walden*.
- Buell, Lawrence. "American Pastoral Ideology Reappraised." *American Literary History*, 1 (Spring 1989): 1-29.
- Fink, Steven. *Prophet in the Marketplace: Thoreau's Development as a Professional Writer*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1992. 321pp. \$35. This is the first full-length study of Thoreau's publishing activities—his relationships with his editors and publishers—and a fine book it is. Although Thoreau has had the reputation of being at least somewhat uncooperative with editors and publishers, Fink demonstrates that he was constantly working to better adapt his prose to the reading public without watering down his ideals. He often even inserted into his works directions as to how to read them—as in the "Reading" chapter of *Walden*. He was ahead of his day in both style and ideas, but that is what makes him so much more popular in our day than in his own. Particularly interesting is Fink's suggestion that Emerson unwittingly postponed Thoreau's literary success by encouraging his tendencies to be too transcendental. It was only when Thoreau got out from under Emerson's influence that he began to write the sturdy prose that finally made his reputation. Unlike so much of the Thoreau pedantry of recent years, this is a straight-forward book that is well written and thoroughly researched. We highly recommend it.
- Fecteau, Kenny. "Henry Thoreau, Before His Time." *Meditation Magazine*. July 1991.
- Garber, Frederick. *Thoreau's Fable of Inscribing*. Review: *American Literature*. Mar. 1992.
- Guerrier, Edith. *An Independent Woman: The Autobiography of*. Edited by Molly Matson. Amherst: U of Massachusetts P, 1992. 154pp. \$27.50. Older members of our society will remember Miss Guerrier, granddaughter of Thoreau's New Bedford disciple, Daniel Ricketson. She was an active member of the Society in her later years and read a paper about her grandfather at one of our early meetings. Her autobiography has just recently come to light and now has been published. Although its main purpose is to record her long life as a social worker, librarian, and early feminist, it also contains reminiscences of her grandfather—apparently a pretty crusty gentleman in his old age—and of his children who in New Bedford and Concord added much to the joy of her life. Thoreau wanders into the pages on occasion (see "Notes & Queries" below).
- Haddin, Theodore. "New Crop." In *By a Doorway, In the Garden*. Birmingham: Druid Press, 1991. P. 58. A poem on Thoreau.
- Halpern, Sue. *Migrations to Solitude*. New York: Pantheon, 1992. 213pp. A series of essays on solitude, permeated with quotations from and references to Thoreau. Halpern and her husband (Bill McKibbin, author of *The End of Nature*) live in their own solitude in the Adirondacks. She interviews hermits, AIDS victims, monks, the homeless, prisoners, and other solitaries with compassion and thought.
- Hanawa, Michiko. "Thoreau's Image from *Walden*." *TSJB*, 18 (Dec. 1991): 32-37. Text in Japanese.
- Harding, Walter. "Adventures in the Thoreau Trade." *American Scholar*, 61 (Spring 1992): 277ff. Searching for Thoreau.
- . "The Adventures of a Literary Detective in Search of Thoreau." *Virginia Quarterly Review*, 68 (Spring 1992): 277-97.
- . *The Days of Henry Thoreau*. Chapter 13. Trans. into Japanese by Koh Kasegawa. *Shi to Sambun*, 51 (Mar. 1992): 121-27.
- . "Thoreau's Sexuality." Trans. into Japanese by Koh Kasegawa. *TSJB*, 18 (Dec. 1991): 8-15.
- Inoue, Luke Hirotsugu. "Thoreau and Hemingway." *Sapientis* [Eichi U], 26 (Mar. 1992): 155-79. Text in Japanese.
- . "Thoreau's Cottage and Huck's Raft." *Kobe Kaiset Gakuin Review*, 30 (Dec. 1991): 165-86. Text in Japanese. Thoreau and Twain contrasted.
- Kasegawa, Koh. "A Note on Thoreau's *The Maine Woods*: 'Ktaadn.'" *Thought Current in English Literature* [Ayoma Gakuin College], 64 (Mar. 1991): 115-34. Text in Japanese.
- Kikama, Yasuo. "Seeing and Hearing in H. D. Thoreau." *TSJB*, 18 (Dec. 1991): 16-20. Text in Japanese.
- Kois, Line. "Henry D. Thoreau, *Walden*: Transaction et Translation, le Ravissement de la Lettre." *Delta*, 27

- (1989): 33-43.
- Kritzbeg, Barry. "Thoreau the Man: However the Wind Blew, He Did His Thing." *Chicago Sun Times*. 14 Feb. 1971. Review of Lawrence and Lee play.
- Kumin, Maxine. "The Unhandselled Globe." In *In Deep*. Boston: Beacon, 1988. Pp. 149-56. A charming essay on *The Maine Woods*.
- LaBastille, Anne. "Thoreau and the Woodswoman." In *The Wilderness World of Anne LaBastille*. Burlington, VT: George Little, 1992. Pp. 113-18. Her cabin life compared to Thoreau's.
- Lowney, John. "Thoreau's Cape Cod: The Unsettling Art of the Wrecker." *American Literature*, 64 (June 1992): 239-54.
- Macrae, Jack. "Another Man's Walden." *House & Garden*, 164 (May 1992): 56-8. A Rhode Islander imitates Thoreau.
- Milder, Robert. "An Errand to Mankind: Thoreau's Problem of Vocation." *ESQ*, 37 (1991): 91-139.
- Morowitz, Harold. "Thoreau as a Scientist." In *The Thermodynamics of Pizza*. New Brunswick: Rutgers, 1991. Pp. 73-80.
- Morton, Bryan G. "Thoreau's Insect Analogies; or, Why Environmentalists Hate Mainstream Economists." *Environmental Ethics*, 13 (Fall 1991): 235-51. Because they, like Thoreau, see man's need for Nature as more important than the costs involved.
- Murakami, Hiromi. "Thoreau's Communion with Nature (I)." *TSJB*, 18 (Dec. 1991): 21-25. Text in Japanese.
- Neufeldt, Leonard. *The Economist*. Review: *History of Political Economy*, 23 (Fall 1991): 541-42.
- O'Connor, Richard. "Birds Present." *Voice of Walden*, 36 (Summer 1992): 2-3. A checklist of birds seen at Walden.
- . "Walden Historian: The Save Walden Case." *Voice of Walden*, 35 (Spring 1992): 1-2.
- Ogata, Toshikiko. "Approaches to Thoreau: Man of Concord." *TSJB*, 18 (Dec. 1991): 2-7. Text in Japanese.
- Ono, Kazuto. "Thoreau and His Lyceum Lectures." *TSJB*, 18 (Dec. 1991): 26-31. Text in Japanese.
- Peck, H. Daniel. *Thoreau's Morning Work*. Review: *American Literature*. Mar. 1992.
- Phillips, Todd. "Concerning Walden." *Voice of Walden*, 36 (Summer 1992): 1-2. On preserving the pond.
- Pribeck, Thomas. "A Note on the Winds of Walden." *College English Association Journal*, 34 (Mar. 1991): 354-63. Discussion of a symbol.
- Slovic, Scott. "The Inner Life and the Outer World: Thoreau's 'Habit of Attention' in His Private Journal." In *Seeking Awareness in American Nature Writing: Thoreau, Dillard, Abbey, Berry, Lopez*. Salt Lake City: U of Utah P, 1992. Pp. 21-59. Thoreau's major contribution to nature writing was the depth of his awareness.
- Smith, David. "Walking as Spiritual Discipline: Henry Thoreau and the Inward Journey." *Soundings*, 74 (Spring 1991): 129-40.
- Takahashi, Sachiko. "A Translation of Thoreau's Poem in the Akita Dialect." *TSJB*, 18 (Dec. 1991): 11-15.
- Thoreau, Henry D. *Cape Cod* (Princeton edition). Review: *Analytical & Enumerative Bibliography*, (1989): 29-32.
- . *The Essays of*. Edited with an introduction by Richard Dillman. Albany, NY: NCUP, 1990. 221pp. An anthology of fourteen of Thoreau's best-known essays, ranging from "Life without Principle" and "Civil Disobedience" to "Walking" and "Succession of Forest Trees," with good solid introductions for each and a general discussion of Thoreau as an essayist and stylist. An excellent paperback for classroom use.
- . *The Green Thoreau*. Edited by Carol Spenard Larusso. San Rafael, CA: New World Library, 1992. 65pp. \$10.95. A volume in the "Classic Wisdom" series. A compact little volume of quotations from Thoreau, as the title indicates, mostly on ecological subjects, but on other subjects too. A good little volume for daily meditations.
- . "The Joy of Walking." *Saturday Evening Post*, 264 (Mar. 1992): 66-68. Condensed "Walking."
- . "The Poet's Delay." *Californian*, 3 (4 Nov. 1865): 1. Early overlooked printing of Thoreau's poem.
- . *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. Review: *Boston Weekly Chronicle*. 9 June 1849.
- . The Same. Review: *New York Evening Post*. 8 June 1849.
- Troy, Timothy. "Ktaadn: Thoreau the Anthropologist." *Dialectical Anthropology*, 15 (1990): 74-81.
- Uehling, M. D. "Walden Revisited." *Popular Science*, 240 (Feb. 1992): 25.
- Warner, Michael. "Thoreau's Bottom." *Raritan*, 11 (Winter 1992): 53-79. Thoreau's views on sexual behavior.
- We are indebted to the following for information sent in for this bulletin: J. Barrett, L. Beaulieu, M. Brooks, G. Boudreau, R. Borst, M. Bickman, J. Dawson, B. Dean, M. Dettlerline, R. Dillman, C. Ellis, S. Feder, E. Johnson, K. Kasegawa, B. Kritzbeg, R. Lester, J. Moldenhauer, W. Olson, R. Pasha, G. Ryan, G. Scharnhorst, M. Shanks, R. Steigerwald, D. Smith, E. Schofield, F. Wagner, R. Winslow, J. Welch, and E. Witherell. Please keep me informed of items I have missed and new ones as they appear. Walter Harding, 19 Oak Street, Geneseo, NY 14454



[14 April 1858]

Plans for 1993 Annual Meeting

Preparations are now underway for our next annual meeting, which will be held on Saturday, 10 July 1993, in Concord, Massachusetts. The Society's officers are working closely with representatives of the Concord Academy, where dormitory rooms, dining facilities, and meeting rooms will be available for the use of the Society. All members—and particularly those living outside the Concord area—are encouraged to begin planning now to attend the 1993 annual meeting, which promises to be among the most successful in recent years.

Members attending the annual meeting from out of town will be able to stay in dormitory rooms in the Academy's several historic houses, all of which are ranged along Main Street and date from Thoreau's time or before. (The Academy itself is situated between Main Street and the Sudbury

River near the Milldam or downtown Concord.) Many of the dormitory rooms are large enough to accommodate up to about six people comfortably, though single- and double-occupancy rooms will be available. Boarders will also be able to use the Academy's swimming pool and gymnasium, and we expect to have child-care service available during the various functions.

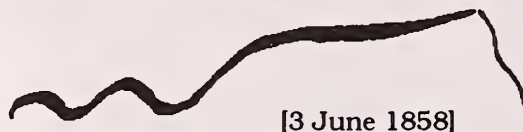
Packages, which will include room and board (buffet-style breakfasts and dinners), will be available to members at special "convention" rates. Reservations for these packages will be on a first-come, first-served basis and will have to be made early, perhaps by 15 May 1993. More details on the packages will be available in the next bulletin, and complete details and reservation forms will be circulated with the winter 1993 bulletin. (The Academy's dining hall is located within a minute's walk of the dorms.)

As plans now stand, members staying in the dormitories will check in Thursday late afternoon or early evening, 8 July, and check out Monday morning, 12 July. We will have a reception Thursday evening in the dining hall for those who have arrived by that time, and Friday evening we will have a speaker at the Academy, with a social hour following in the dining hall.

In the First Parish Church the next morning, coffee and donuts will be served in the vestry as usual, followed by the annual business meeting in the main hall and the luncheon and Thoreau Quiz in the vestry. Saturday afternoon we will have four panels or forums at the Academy; each panel will convene in a separate room and discuss a separate topic. Audience participation in the panel discussions will be strongly encouraged. Concurrently, at least one outdoor activity, perhaps a walking tour of some local Thoreau sites or a guided canoe tour of the three rivers in town, will take place for those not wishing to attend one of the panels. Later that afternoon we will have a social hour and book signing in the Academy dining hall, with a special dinner (perhaps a barbeque) to follow. After dinner we will have our usual Saturday evening speaker in one of the Academy's halls with an informal social hour afterward.

On Sunday morning busses will pick us up in Concord and take us to Fruitlands, the beautifully preserved and restored community started in the early 1840s by Bronson Alcott and Charles Lane, and situated in the still-idyllic hill country of Harvard, Massachusetts, about twenty miles west of Concord. Fruitlands will be celebrating its sesquicentennial and will have a full day of activities planned for our enjoyment. Sunday evening we will have a final social hour at the Concord Academy.

In addition to the above services and activities, we hope to have special discounts available to members for the various historical houses, museums, restaurants, hotels, and recreational facilities in the area. Local maps, informational pamphlets, books, gifts, and similar items—including the proposed official Thoreau Society t-shirt—will be available in a special room at the Concord Academy, as well as at the Lyceum on Belknap Street. Again, this will be an annual meeting you will not want to miss, so start making your plans now.



[3 June 1858]

Donors to the Spring Appeal

The following 128 members responded to our Spring Appeal letter by donating a total of \$4,352 to the Society's general fund. Individual donations ranged from \$1 to \$500 and averaged \$34. Those whose names appear in bold type donated \$100 or more. The Society is very grateful to all these donors for their generosity. (If your contribution is not acknowledged here, please let your secretary know so that he can acknowledge it in the next bulletin.)

Elliott Abemayor, **Charlotte Adams**, William Apt, Alexander Armstrong, John F. Baker, Jack Barrett, Thomas P. Beal, Andree Berlin, Michael Bilodeau, August B. Black, Frances Blaisdell, Margaret Bodfish, Gordon V. Boudreau, Robert E. Boyd III, Daniel Brand, Stephen C. Bridgett, Jane M. Brooks, David R. Bucher, Victor Bucossi, Lawrence I. Buell, Jerome H. Buff, Nicholas J. Bulzacchelli, Albert W. Bussewitz, John F. Butkis, John Cage, Alfred Cahen, Claire Carlson, Charles D. Chandler, Mark J. Christel, Richard Conarroe, Ronald H. Dailey, Susan L. Danahy, Bradley P. Dean, David P. K. Dean, Debra K. Dean, Byron F. Demmer, Alice C. deMontigny, Bob Doriss, E. Otis Dyer, **Elaine A. Ebbert**, Michael Edmonds, Linda Egendorf, Ruth W. Eldridge, Richard Epstein, Laraine Fergenson, Beth Flory, Charles H. Foster, Michael Garboez, Sarah C. Garth, John Gelski, Rosalyn L. Gittleman, Deborah W. Greeley, Terrence Greenwalt, **John P. Grillo**, Charles H. Gushee, Dennis J. Hannan, Sarah D. Hartshorne, Eleanor F. Heginbotham, Jennifer A. Held, Ronald W. Hoag, Frank M. Howell, Kenneth Hunkins, Valerio Isca, Rev. Edward Johnson, Gary J. Johnson, Robert T. Jordan, Koh Kasegawa, Cathleen H. Klister, Andrew P. Kordalewski, Nayan K. Kothari, Stephen J. Kowalsky, Judith S. Kritzberg, Laura D. Kuhn, Patricia D. Kurtz, Lauriat Lane, Mary-Warren Leary, Norman B. Leclair, Ruth A. Lohman, Helen MacGregor, Robert P. McCabe, Sr., Mary W. McClintock, Mrs. William G. McInnes, Jean Ellen McKeag, Robin M. McNaillie, Thomas E. Mesetz, **H. B. Messinger**, Donald H. Meyer, Edwin J. Meyer, **James C. Milani**, Alex W. Moore, Jr., Walter D. Mott, William W. Newman, Paul H. Oescher,

Izumi Ogura, Dennis L. Outwater, Ruth A. Patrick, Robert M. Peterson, **John Phelps**, Theresa Putnam, Donald S. Raymond, **Robert D. Richardson, Jr.**, Lawrence S. Rines, Richard G. Robb, Robert L. Rothwell, Ann Rulon-Miller, J. Armand Saulnier, Audrey L. Schwartz, Merton M. Sealts, Ethel L. Seybold, Mark Shanks, Fay L. Smith, Ina H. Smith, James O. Smith, James K. Somerville, Steven J. Spatz, Harriet M. Sweetland, Gilbert F. Van Buskirk, Shirley A. Vancley, James B. Via, **Frederick P. Wagner**, Lawrence Wiesner, Paul Osborne Williams, Glenn Winter, J. Steven Wood, **Donald E. Worster**, Mark T. Wright, Juichi Yoshida, Michael Zucher.

The Curator's Corner

Anne R. McGrath

From time to time we get questions from visitors, and lately from new members of the Society's Board of Directors, about the places Lyceum visitors represent. Mary McClintock, naturalist and former treasurer of the Lyceum, has been kind enough to prepare the following information:

In the past year the Thoreau Lyceum has had visitors from forty-five states and the District of Columbia, from seven Canadian Provinces, and twenty-five foreign countries. Of these guests, 24% were from Massachusetts, 66% from forty-four other states, and 10% from outside the United States.

To the residents of Alaska, Nebraska, Nevada, West Virginia, and Wyoming we say, "Come up and see us sometime!"

The above figures do not represent the schools and colleges that have brought classes here. We shall say more about them in a later bulletin.

Notes & Queries

The Society plans to have an "official" Thoreau Society t-shirt available by the next annual meeting and is now designing the t-shirt. We plan to use one of three images of Thoreau—either the Rowse crayon (1854), the Maxham daguerreotype (1856), or the Dunshee ambrotype (1861). Vote for the image you prefer by sending a postcard to your secretary (Bradley P. Dean, Route 2, Box 36, Ayden, NC 28513). Your secretary is also accepting ideas for the complete t-shirt, which will have a design on the front of the shirt only.

The Society has worked out an arrangement with Princeton University Press to offer 15% discounts to Society members on Princeton Edition books as they come out. Look for flyers in enclosed with future bulletins. A portion of the

proceeds on all books purchased will go into the Society's general operating fund.

Stephen King quotes from "The Village" chapter of *Walden* on the flyleaf of his book *Needful Things* (New York: Viking, 1991): "I have heard of many going astray even in the village streets, when the darkness was so thick you could cut it with a knife, as the saying is. . . ."

Someone recently sent us a clipping of a hilarious account of an attempt to follow Thoreau's trail in the Maine Woods by Hodding Carter IV. Can anyone tell us what magazine it was clipped from?

Articles on the proposed Thoreau Center in Concord appeared in the *Boston Globe* for 21 March 1992 and the *Minuteman Chronicle* for 4 January 1992. Articles on the attempts to preserve Walden Woods appeared in the *Denver Post* for 22 April 1992.

A brief note on Marjorie Winkler's study of the sediments in Walden Pond appeared in *On Wisconsin* for January 1992.

Diana Rendell of Waban, MA, is offering for sale a portion of Thoreau's "Night and Moonlight" manuscript for \$3,250.

Steve Kowalsky's "Voluntary Night" was premiered by the Augustana College choir in Rock Island, IL, in March 1991. Based on passages from Thoreau's *Walden*, the *Journal*, and "Life without Principle," it protests the growing militarism of the United States.

A new mural painted on the wall at the corner of Newbury and Dartmouth Streets in Boston includes Thoreau among many other famous Boston area people.

A new mail-order luxury catalog is called "Walden's" in Roanoke, VA, but we doubt if Thoreau would approve of most of the items being offered.

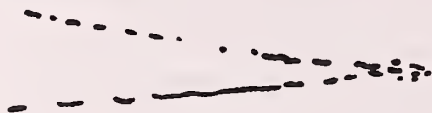
Rev. Wayne Olson and his wife Rosemary of New Palestine, IN, have for eleven years now hosted an annual Thoreau Birthday Party at their church, serving a meal and having each guest read a favorite quotation from Thoreau.

When Clifton Taulbert, a Mississippi black, served in the air force during the Vietnam war, his base commander caught him reading a copy of *Walden*. Expecting a reprimand, he was astonished when the commander patted him on the back and said, "Good material, soldier. Thoreau has always intrigued me. His works are good for your mind" (*Parade Magazine*, 10 May 1992).

When South Carolina lawmaker Michael Fair introduced a bill in the House to ban use of so-called New Age thinking and meditation practices from the state schools, Rep. Timothy Wilkes pointed out it would prevent the teaching of

Thoreau and Emerson. The bill was defeated 69 to 32.

In response to an earlier query by Toni Welsh (TSB 197), Mark Shanks informs us that the *Morris Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins* cites "Adam's ale" as water, the idea apparently being that the first man would have nothing else to drink. Regarding "Adam's off ox," Shanks writes, "On Cape Cod you can still hear many unusual expressions. One that keeps coming back to us was said by a Hyannis native speaking about the reception given President Kennedy on one of his flights from Washington. 'He was all smiles,' said the Cape Codder, 'and he waved to me and said hello, though he didn't know me from Adam's off ox.' The off ox in a team of oxen is the one on the right. Since he is farther from the driver, the presumption is that he can't be so well seen and may get worse footing than the ox on the left. Thus off ox came to be farmer's slang for a clumsy person. The late Charles E. Funk reported that the expression 'poor as God's off ox,' meaning *very poor indeed*, was common on Nantucket. It's reasonable to guess that *Adam* was substituted as a euphemism for 'God' when the expression reached the mainland. Certainly the expression 'didn't know him from Adam's off ox,' meaning 'to have no knowledge whatever of a person,' is common throughout New England."



[28 March 1858]

L. L. Bean Co. of Freeport, Maine now sells an "environmentally friendly" Thoreau t-shirt labeled "In Wildness is the Preservation of the World" and "made from unbleached, untreated, 100% pure cotton jersey knit and printed with gentle water-based inks." The company sends \$1 for each shirt purchased to the National Park Foundation.

Fred Beihold of the Lincoln Laboratory at MIT writes: "HAMS! ThoreauNet, Sunday evenings at 2100 EST near 1860 KHz."

The Thoreau Society of Japan held the first of its two semi-annual meetings this year on 3 April at Rissho University in Shinagawa, Tokyo. The Society's president, Rev. Luke Hirotsugu Inoue of Eichi University, delivered the opening address. Keiko Takahashi, a graduate student at Sophia University, then spoke on "Thoreau's Use of Rhetorical Inversion in *Walden*," and Reiko Maeda of Ôtemae Women's University spoke on "A

Comparison of Thoreau and Melville with Regard to the Rivers and Lakes." After the general meeting, chaired by Yoshinori Kato of Bukkyo University, Yoshimi Anzai of Ashikaga Institute of Technology spoke on "Henry Thoreau and the *Bhagavad Gita*" (Koh Kasegawa of Aoyama Gakuin University, chair). The closing address was given by Yuji Nakata of Kōnan Women's University.

Christine Ellis sends us these comments about *An Independent Woman: The Autobiography of Edith Guerrier*, edited by Molly Matson (Amherst, 1992): "Ms. Guerrier (1870-1958), a librarian and social worker in Boston's North End during the massive immigrations at the turn of the century, was the granddaughter of Daniel Ricketson. When she was left motherless at the age of three, she lived for several years with her grandfather and his unmarried children, Anna and Walton. She was entertained by Walton playing Thoreau's flute, a gift from Sophia after Thoreau's death, and she writes of the reverential memories of the Ricketson family for Emerson and the Alcotts, as well as for Henry Thoreau. Particularly fascinating is her recollection of the pronunciation of 'Thoreau.' She says of Walton: 'Thaw'-row he pronounced it, for that is the way Thoreau pronounced it, he said' (p. 20). We have from Edith Guerrier a late picture of the Ricketson family and another perspective on Henry Thoreau from their memories."

The Walden Woods Project very generously donated 1,000 calendars ("Thoreau's Walden Woods: A Calendar of Thoughts and Images for 1993," list price \$9.95) to the Society. These calendars were published by Longmeadow Press, have beautiful color photographs of various Thoreau-related locations in the Walden Woods eco-system, and would make excellent gifts. See the enclosed flyer for a more detailed description of the calendar and information on how to order. And note that *for each calendar purchased, \$9.95 will go to the Society.*

The Thoreau Society, Inc., is a gathering of students and admirers of Henry David Thoreau. Joel Myerson, president; Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer; Bradley P. Dean, secretary. Dues: \$20; students \$10; institutions \$25; family \$35; benefactor \$100; life \$500. Address communications to the secretary at Route 2, Box 36, Ayden, NC 28513; send dues to the Thoreau Society, Inc., 156 Belknap Street, Concord, MA 01742.